



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

August – 2003 Volume 3, Issue 8

Office of Local and Rural Health



Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

REFUGEES RESETTLE IN SHAWNEE COUNTY



Helen and Rual Ayat

Rual Ayat, his wife Helen and family, arrived in Topeka on June 4, 2003. They are Shawnee County's first refugee family. Rual and Helen have two children, a son, Deng, and a daughter Adal. Rual's ten-year-old sister, Abuk, also lives with the family. The family fled Sudan and sought refuge in Egypt before coming to America. Akot Arc, Caseworker/Interpreter from Catholic Charities in Kansas City, and Anita Hodge, RN, Refugee Health Coordinator, assisted the family with orientation to the health care system as they completed their health assessments and immunizations at the Shawnee County Health Agency. The staff at Shawnee County Health Agency provided exceptional care, patience, and compassion to Rual and his family. This was a good experience for a family that has been through so much.



Akot Arc, Helen and Rual Ayat

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A FOND FAREWELL TO KAREN CONNELLY



Karen & Kerry (daughter)

Karen Connelly, Administrative Specialist for the Office of Local and Rural Health, retired on July 18. For many years Karen coordinated all of the "business office" functions for Local and Rural Health including federal grant applications, contracts, purchasing, and the many other administrative functions needed to keep an organization running smoothly.

Almost everyone who works with our office worked with Karen at some point. Seemingly everyone who worked with Karen, be they coworkers or constituents, was appreciative of Karen's competence and skill and also of her way with people. Karen was a friend and confidant to many and she will be sorely missed. Thank you for everything, Karen!



Karen & OLRH Staff

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO BE ENDOWED

Submitted by Connie Scheffer



Just 2 years ago, the public health nurses in Kansas set about to establish an endowed scholarship to be used to further the education of public health nurses in Kansas. The \$5,000.00 needed to endow it has been raised. However, because of the low interest rates, amounts that can be granted annually will be limited. To achieve the goal of helping public health nurses with education costs, additional funds are now being solicited to increase the base amount endowed. Each of you are encouraged to consider making a contribution at this time; any amount helps. Contributions can be made to honor someone who is/has retired, to celebrate an occasion, in remembrance of a co-worker, relative, etc. or just to increase the funds that will be available for scholarships. Please take a minute as you read this and make your check to the Kansas Nurses Foundation, Public Health Nurse Scholarship Fund. Send it to the Kansas State Nurses Association, 1208 SW Tyler, Topeka, KS. 66612-1735. Thank you for your help.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



On June 25, 2003 the Shawnee County Emergency Operations Center was activated and

over 50 people responded to a major emergency. Fortunately, it was not a real event...only a *simulated* one.

The Shawnee County Health Agency, along with the Shawnee County Joint Exercise & Training Team (JETT), conducted a bioterrorism exercise designed to familiarize state and local stakeholders with the roles and responsibilities involved in a response to a terrorism threat or attack. The tabletop exercise allowed exercise participants the opportunity to work through various response functions and identify the interface necessary to detect, communicate, and coordinate an efficient response operation.

The scenario moved participants from a typical day-to-day routine into what eventually proved to be a major medical emergency. As with any bioterrorism event, it was the medical community, in concert with public health authorities that guided the exercise play. It wasn't until later in the exercise that the Shawnee County Threat Assessment Group (TAG) was activated and involved in the response actions. By that time everyone was engrossed in a response to what ultimately was identified as a smallpox outbreak resulting from an act of bioterrorism.

The exercise proved to be a valuable training opportunity and a visual display of the various response protocols necessary to respond to a



bioterrorism event. Law enforcement and fire/EMS officials were able to see how an attack using a biological agent will first show up in the public health sector. Efficient communication between public health and public safety officials will be crucial in issuing appropriate risk messages as the first communication people hear from public officials has a long-term impact on their ultimate reaction and subsequent healing.

The presence of the public health community at the response table is definitely the wave of the future.

Public Health Personnel Updates

Joseph Kotsch, RN, MS - Began work on June 23, 2003 as the new *Perinatal Consultant* for Children & Families Section. Joe has a background in private adult care, holds a Master's degree in Psychology, and worked as a School Psychologist in his earlier years. He brings a unique lens to Perinatal Outcomes in that he began his career working with children and families, many of whom, experienced problem pregnancies resulting in educational and developmental challenges. Joe's strengths are in management, statistics & data analysis, and program evaluation

Jamie Klenklen, BA - Began work with the Children & Families Section on July 7, 2003 as the *Maternal Child Health Administrative Consultant*. Jamie will oversee the fiscal and administrative component of the MCH grants to local agencies. Jamie had previously worked at the Department of Transportation. She has been employed by the State of Kansas for several years and worked for the Department of Revenue and DISC. She has a strong background in Computer Information Systems as a programmer and analyst. Her degree is in Public Administration.

Ted Carter, MA - Began work on June 30, 2003 as the new *Abstinence Education Consultant* with the Children & Families Section. Ted comes from the private sector. His BA and MA degree are both in psychology. Ted has strong statistical and analytical skills as well as a solid base in behavioral science.

Cathleen Reed, RN - Retired as Nursing Supervisor on Friday, June 27, 2003 from the Jackson County Health Department, Holton, KS. Cathleen had worked at the health department for 23 years.

Angela Reith, RN, BSN - Jackson County Health Department's new Nursing Supervisor. Angela has worked at the health department for three years in community health, school nursing, WIC and M & I. Angela and her husband Darren have two daughters; Madison and Emma.

Pat MacDonald, Director of Health Education - Sedgwick County Health Department, Wichita, retired after 30 years as a public health advocate.

Sue Rhodes, RN - Accepted the position of Marshall County Public Health Nurse (Administrator's role), Marysville, KS. Sue's 25-year career in nursing includes 22 years at Community Memorial Healthcare, where she was the obstetrics coordinator and a certified breast-feeding educator. She works as a registered nurse and emergency medical technician on the Marysville Ambulance Service. Rhodes received her RN degree in 1981 at Cloud County Community College.

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS

Northeast: Next meeting September 11, 2003, at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Azure Conference 4th Floor, Topeka, from 10am-3pm.

North Central: Next meeting is scheduled from 9:30am-3pm on August 26, 2003 at 1st National Bank, 1205 18th Street, (across from Health Dept.), Bellville. Please RSVP Marcia for a lunch count rchdhha@nckcn.com.

10:00-11:00 Bill Arneson - KIPHS program

11:00-12:00 Gail Hansen SRS Medicaid Liaison

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:45 Katy Miley & Mike Cameron State BT program

1:45-3:00 County Sharing & Updates

Northwest: Next meeting is August 14, 2003, from 10am-3pm at the Colonial Steak House, I70 and Highway 83 in Oakley. Please RSVP to Georgetta for a lunch count at 785-672-4502 or email at lgcohidgeorgetta@colbyweb.com.

10:00-11:00 Bill Arneson - KIPHS program

11:00-12:00 Gail Hansen SRS Medicaid Liaison

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:45 Katy Miley & Mike Cameron State BT program

1:45-3:00 County Sharing & Updates

Southwest: Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2003, from 9am-3pm at the Garden City Library in Garden City.

Central KS: Next meeting is September 24, 2003, from 10am-3pm at the Reno County Health Department in Hutchinson.

South Central Coalition: Next meeting is September 17, 2003, from 9am-3pm at the Ambulance Barn in Pratt.

Southeast: Next meeting, August 7, 2003, has been **cancelled**. Administrators and/or billing clerks are encouraged to attend the immunization billing options meeting on August 6, in Topeka.

NEWS CAPS

Annie E. Casey Foundation "KIDS COUNT" MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation recently released the 2003 KIDS COUNT Data Book which provides statistics on the status of children in the United States on a national and state-by-state level. Ranked indicators include low birthweight, infant mortality, child death rate, and children in poverty. Findings indicate widespread improvements in states with every state improving on at least four out of ten measures and most states improving on six out of ten measures. Specific findings include:

- ❖ The U.S. infant mortality rate declined from 9.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 6.9 deaths in 2000, an improvement that was reflected in almost every state.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2000, the child death rate decreased in 48 states and the District of Columbia; and
- ❖ The rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide decreased by 28 percent between 1990 and 2000, with this decline evident in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

The KIDS COUNT Pocket Guide is also available and provides summary statistics on state-by-state data in easy-to-read charts and tables. For more information, go to



<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook>. ASTHO has a limited number of copies of the KIDS COUNT materials available. To request a copy, send e-mail to msinghal@astho.org.

U.S. Birth Rate Declines to Record Low in 2002



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released new findings on birth statistics in a report entitled "Births: Preliminary Data for 2002." This report provides preliminary data on births in the U.S. in 2002. Data on age, race, and marital status

of the mother, as well as data on prenatal care, cesarean delivery, preterm births, and low birth weight are provided. According to the report, the current birth rate is the lowest it has ever been since national data have been available. The 2002 birth rate was 13.9 births per 1,000 women, signifying a decrease of 1% from the 2001 rate of 14.1 per 1,000 and a decrease of 17% from the all time high of 16.7 per 1,000 in 1990. Other findings include:

- ❖ A continuing decline in the birth rate for teenagers, with a drop of 5% from 2001 to 42.9 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years in 2002.
- ❖ A slight increase in the percentage of preterm and low birth weight babies at 12% and 7.8%, respectively. The low birth weight rate is the highest in thirty years; and
- ❖ 26.1% of all births in 2002 were cesarean deliveries, representing the highest level of cesarean births ever reported in the U.S. The number of cesarean births to women with no previous history rose 7% and the rate of vaginal births after previous cesarean delivery dropped by 23%.

The full report is available at

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51_11.pdf.

KIPHS Users Group

Help is just a click away

*Submitted by Kathy Kroupa
IT Officer/Kansas Health Foundation*

Kansas local health departments using KIPHS have come together to create KUG-KS (KIPHS Users Group – Kansas). KIPHS users with more experience will be able to assist those with less experience through a free internet based email group. Anyone who signs up to participate can ask, via email, technical or procedural questions, comment on KIPHS functions or make suggestions for system enhancement. Everyone within the group will see the email and have the opportunity to comment if they wish.

KUG-KS members will have access to many additional resources: a shared calendar showing special dates for upcoming training sessions sponsored by KIPHS or User/Billing Group meetings across Kansas; links to pertinent internet sites such as KALHD, KDHE and CDC; and special sample documents and files with the ability to download and revise the documents to suit individual health department needs. Participation is voluntary with



membership open to any interested party working with KIPHS in local health departments. There is no cost to join or participate.

To join, simply go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and create a Yahoo user name if you do not already have a yahoo email account. Then, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/KUG-KS> and join the group. If you have any questions, want to learn more or need assistance in joining the group, please contact Diana Rice of the Edwards County Health Department at (620) 659-3102 or by email at Diana@edcohealth.com or Joyce Mason of the Dickinson County Health Department at (785) 263-4179 or by email at dkhealthom@access-one.com.

Cathleen Reed, RN Retires from Jackson County Health Department



Cathleen Reed, RN, Nursing Supervisor, has worked at the Jackson County Health Department for 23 years. She began her nursing career 45 years ago as a nurse aide at Moser Hospital in Holton, Kansas, working summers and during her senior year in high school. She attended the

Sisters of Charity School of Nursing at Providence Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas, and graduated in 1962. Cathleen worked at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Montana, for 2½ years, gained much experience and returned to Kansas in 1966. She worked at the Holton City Hospital for 14½ years. Cathleen came to the Jackson County Health Department in 1981 as a community health nurse. In 1988 she saw a need and growing interest in Hospice Care and was instrumental in forming the Jackson County Friends of Hospice, which has over 65 volunteers and led to Medicare Certification in 1995 through NEK Multi-County. Cathleen has been married to Dale Reed for 30 years. They have two daughters, Cody and Kitty, and one granddaughter, Grace Elizabeth. Cathleen plans to do some traveling with her family and enjoy her rose garden. The staff at Jackson County Health Department had a wonderful retirement reception in honor of Cathleen on Friday, June 27, 2003.



Shirley Orr, Cathleen Reed and Anita Hodge

Medical Interpreter Training Across Kansas

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Local and Rural Health, sponsored four medical interpreter-training sessions this past fiscal year. The training sessions were funded by the SUNFLOWER FOUNDATION. A contract between KDHE and Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) of Kansas City was mutually agreed upon and medical interpreter training for bilingual staff to serve non-English speaking populations was in place. JVS provided all training by personnel who have been certified in medical and social interpretation by Cross Cultural Health Care Program, Seattle, Washington. The training program, "Bridging the Gap" a basic training for medical interpretation, totaling 40 hours of instruction, was provided to community members and health professionals.



The four medical interpreter training sessions held in Lawrence, Pittsburg, Wichita, and Great Bend, provided a great need to each of these communities and the surrounding areas. There are now 68 additional trained medical interpreters available in Kansas to assist our limited English proficiency (LEP) clients. In the past two years KDHE, Office of Local Rural Health, has sponsored seven medical interpreter-training sessions across Kansas. From these seven training sessions 112 bilingual speakers from a diverse mix of service providers with varying background and experience in interpretation successfully completed the medical interpreter training curriculum. Our goal is to continue to find resources in order to offer medical interpreter training on a continual basis.

Summer Internship

Kristen Borntrager, RN is a public health nurse in Indianapolis, completing her Masters in Community Health Nursing from Indiana University School of Nursing this fall. As part of her internship, she worked during the month of June



with the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program. Kristen developed transcripts for an audio project directed at Low German speaking farmworkers in Western Kansas. The Low German farmworkers are not typically able to read or write in any language and speak Low German. The transcripts for the tapes, which will be recorded in English, Spanish and Low German include the following: *"How do I find assistance in Kansas for the health care of my family?"* and *Preventive Services and Hygiene, Nutrition and Nutrition Assistance Programs, Depression, Alcohol Abuse, and Family Planning.* The Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program will be seeking a grant to complete the audiotape project and to distribute the tapes to farmworkers and health care providers.

New Health Foundations



Grantmakers in Health, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to helping foundations and corporate giving

programs improve the nation's health, has released a report entitled "A Profile of New Health Foundations, May 2003." The report covers 165 new health foundations, also referred to as conversion foundations. Many of these organizations are potential funders and partners for public health activities. To view the report, please visit

http://www.gih.org/usr_doc/2003_Profile_Report.pdf

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

HHS to Fund Demonstrations in Recruit and Retain Personal Assistance Workers to Help People with Disabilities



HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson has called for proposals for programs to recruit and train direct service workers, those workers who provide personal assistance to people with disabilities who need help with eating, bathing, dressing and other activities of daily living.

A part of the President's New Freedom Initiative, the Demonstration to Improve the Direct Service Community Workforce, will fund seven to ten projects around the U.S. designed to develop and implement programs that will recruit and retain direct service workers.

States and community-based organizations that provide direct services to people in local communities are being urged to submit proposals. HHS is particularly interested in programs testing whether offering health care coverage to workers will increase and sustain interest in these occupations. However, applicants may wish to devise and implement other recruitment and retention strategies as well.

HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will provide nearly \$6 million from the fiscal year 2003 federal budget to those programs selected as demonstration participants. The maximum award will be \$1.5 million for projects that provide health insurance benefits to workers. For other types of projects, the maximum award will be \$750,000 per applicant.

The notice soliciting proposals is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom>. Applications must be received by August 12, 2003.

Robert Wood Johnson Announces Community Health Leadership Program

Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program

The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program honors community health leaders for their work in addressing some of today's most complex health problems in communities across the United States. The award includes a

grant of \$120,000: \$105,000 for program support, and \$15,000 as a personal stipend.

Community-based health providers and advocates in mid-career who have created or significantly improved health programs in local communities where healthcare needs have been ignored and unmet are eligible to be nominated. The program welcomes nominations of people who are addressing factors that affect the overall health of community environmental health, and community development. For complete nomination guidelines, visit:

<http://www.communityhealthleaders.org>.

Grant Program for Community-Based Organizations from EPA



EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) has created a new grants program called the "Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Grant

Program." The grants program provides financial assistance to community-based organizations that wish to engage in capacity-building initiatives and assist organizations that utilize constructive engagement and collaborative problem-solving to seek viable solutions for their community's Environmental and/or public health issues. Only not for profit 501 (c) (3) organizations are eligible to apply. The grants are due September 30, 2003, and will be awarded at \$100,000 for a project period of up to three years.

The Request for Applications (RFA) for the new Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Program can be downloaded from

<http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/recent/ej.html>.

To request a hardcopy of the RFA, call (800) 962-6215 or send your complete mailing address to: Ms. Rosa Moore, US EPA/OEJ, MC-2201A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

GENERAL WORKSHOPS/TRAINING

Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention

Denice Curtis, KDHE Senior Epidemiologist, will present six regional training sessions on surveillance, the final topic in the three-part series she has presented. Scheduled sites are:

Garden City - September 3

Oakley - September 4

Salina - September 8

Chanute - September 18

Topeka - September 19

Wichita - September 30

Contact Amber Hermreck at 785-296-8115 or email at ahermrec@kdhe.stat.ks.us for registration

PAK Conference

Please remember to send in your PAK (Perinatal Association of Kansas) registration materials by August 29, 2003, in order to avoid paying any late fees. This should prove to be a phenomenal conference with interesting and informative speakers. So don't miss out on the PAK Conference September 11 and 12, 2003 at the Manhattan, Kansas Holiday Inn. If you are planning any



overnights for the conference, the rooms will start going fast. This conference

is sponsored by PAK in cooperation with Folic Acid Education/KDHE and Stormont-Vail HealthCare. See you there! Joe Kotsch, Perinatal Consultant, KDHE.

KPHA Conference

Building on the Past; Prepare for the Future

Kansas Public Health Association

The Kansas Public Health Association along with KU-MPH, Wichita State University MPH Program, and the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition presents "Building on the Past; Preparing for the Future." The conference will be held September 23-25, 2003, at the Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park. To request a registration form email kpha@networksplus.net.



Public Health Grand Rounds

The session of Public Health Informatics previously scheduled for August 7th has been postponed. Look for a new date to be announced in the near future.

"Public Health Law" will be presented September 5, 2003, from 9am – 3:30pm. Presented live in Wichita and broadcast live to other sites across the state. Presenter will be Jason Sapsin, JD, Faculty Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Member of the Center for Law and Public's Health at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown University.

For more information and registration, go to the following site:

<http://www.waldcenter.org/upcoming.html#workshops>.

Medical Interpreter Training to be Offered

Heartland Centers for Public Health Workforce Development

The Heartland Centers for Public Health Workforce Development, St. Louis University School of Public Health, will partner with Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Local and Rural Health, to support Medical Interpreter Training in Kansas. The Heartland Center will provide funding for four training sessions, two occurring by December 2003 and two occurring between January 1 and June 30, 2004. We are excited to offer Medical Interpreter Training to bilingual staff and volunteers in order to provide adequate medical and social terminology to non-English speaking clients in health care settings. Jewish Vocational Service of Kansas City will provide the training for each session. Look for further details, location sites, and dates in the next addition of CONNECTIONS.

General Workshops

Continuing Education of interest to PH Workforce is listed by the Kansas State Board of Nursing at: <http://www.ksbn.org>.

Training offered by Area Health Education Centers (AHEC's):

Look for the AHEC trainings at:

<http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us> then go to "Additional PH Training Calendar"

NW KS AHEC - Register at: 785-628-6128.

SW KS AHEC - Register at: 620-275-0259

SE KS AHEC - Register at: 620-235-4040

Kansas Division of Emergency Management:

<http://www.accesskansas.org/kdem/trainingnew.htm>

PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

Network Satellite Downlinks/Webcasts

See PHTN website at www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn to view a complete list and register for training and programs. Call Linda Frazier, Distance Learning Coordinator at (785) 625-5663 if you need assistance.

To Order Tapes/CD's:

Public Health Foundation Online Bookstore:

<http://bookstore.phf.org/cat20.htm>

CDC BT programs:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/index.asp>

Nursing Education

Ft. Hays Nursing: <http://www.fhsu.edu/nursing>

KU Nursing: KU has an on-line RN to BSN completion program:

http://www2.kumc.edu/son/vclassroom/rn_to_bsn.htm

Washburn PHN Certification Program- e-mail

Dr. Janice Dunwell at: zzdnwl@washburn.edu

ANA's web site: <http://www.RNCE.org>

Other Continuing Education Online

The WALD CENTER: <http://www.waldcenter.org>

The Public Health Training Network:

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/default.asp>

KDHE/KALHD Training Calendars:

<http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us>. Click on the calendar you wish to view.

Training Finder: Comprehensive database of distance learning course listings

<http://www.trainingfinder.org>.

The MMWR Continuing Education Program:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>

MPH Kansas: <http://mph.kumc.edu>.

National Library of Medicine:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>.

CDC BT Training:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/index.asp>

The Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center: <http://www.uic.edu/sph/prepare>

Heartland Center for Public Health Preparedness: <http://slu.edu/centers/heartland>

Centers for Public Health Preparedness:

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/owpp/CPHPLocations.asp>

Public Health Training Centers:

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/publichealth/phtc.htm>

Other Public Health Workforce Development Centers:

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/owpp/resources.asp>

**Public Health Workforce Competencies
Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness
Competencies for all Public Health Workers:**

<http://www.nursing.hs.columbia.edu/institute-centers/chphsr/btcomps.html>

**Competencies Feedback Project by the
Council on Linkages Between Academia and
Public Health Practice.**

<http://www.trainingfinder.org/competencies/index.htm>

**Local Health Section
Office of Local & Rural Health**

<p>Shirley Orr Director, Local Health 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-7100 Cell phone –316-250-6940 Fax number 785-296-1231 E-mail address – sorr@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Terri Ploger-McCool Bioterrorism Training Coordinator 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-291-3796 Fax number 785-296-1231 E-mail address – tplogerm@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Linda Frazier PH Workforce Development Coordinator/DLC 2301 E. 13th Hays, KS 67601-2651 Office phone – 785-625-5663 Cell phone – 785-231-4504 Fax number – 785-625-4005 E-mail address – lfrazier@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Debbie Whitmer PH Nurse Specialist 2501-D Market Place Salina, KS 67401-7699 Office phone –785-827-9639 Cell phone – 785-452-5986 Fax number – 785-827-1544 Email address – dwhitmer@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Anita Hodge PH Nurse Specialist 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-368-8110 Cell phone – 785-231-4357 Fax 785-296-1231 E-mail address – ahodge@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Jon Anderson PH Nurse Specialist 1500 W. 7th Chanute, KS 66720-9701 Office phone – 620-431-2390 Cell phone 785-231-9828 Fax number – 620-431-1211 E-mail address – janderso@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>